

(From the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST

NOW FEDERAL GAME PRESERVE

Washington, November :--President Wilson has issued a proclamation by which the Pisgah National Forest, in western North Carolina, is made a Federal game preserve. This is the first Federal game preserve of its kind to be created east of the Mississippi River.

The Pisgah National Forest consists largely of the George W. Vanderbilt estate, part of which has been purchased by the Government. The land is located near Asheville and Biltmore, N. C. Owing to the protection against hunting which has been afforded the tract for a number of years, the game has not been killed out, as is the case in most places in the southern mountains. Deer, wild turkey, and pheasants are said to be plentiful.

After it was known that the tract would be acquired by the Government, many of the local citizens urged that the protection to the game should be continued. The North Carolina Legislature passed an act whereby the State consented to the enactment by Congress of laws for the protection of game, birds and fish on any lands purchased by the Government under the Weeks Law in the western part of the State.

As a game preserve, no hunting will be allowed on the Forest and as the deer and other game increase on the area, it is expected that the overflow will drift out of the Forest and gradually restock adjacent lands. A movement is now on foot to place a herd of elk and one of buffalo in the preserve this winter.

Regulations governing the camping and fishing privileges have been drawn up in cooperation with local citizens and sporting clubs, and will be issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. It is understood that regulated fishing will be allowed, but the number of permits issued the first season will be purely experimental, since the capacity of the streams is not known.

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